

GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

The White Pelican at Spirit Lake, Iowa.—A flock of more than 110 White Pelicans (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*) spent several days on Little Spirit Lake in April (1929). A large flock was reported here four years ago, also.—F. L. R. AND MARY PRICE ROBERTS, *Spirit Lake, Iowa*.

Some Notes from South Carolina.—I saw four adults and two half grown young of the Florida Gallinule (*Gallinula chloropus cachinnans*) on Goose Creek, near Otranto, November 24, 1928. A Duck Hawk (*Falco peregrinus anatum*) was noted flying with a small rodent in its talons along the Cooper River, near the city dump on the east side of Charleston, November 25, 1928. I collected an immature Orange-crowned Warbler (*Vermivora celata celata*) that was molting on the throat, at Otranto, November 24, 1928.—WILLIAM HOWARD BALL, *Washington, D. C.*

The Lazuli Bunting in Iowa.—On May 20, 1929, on the edges of a ravine within the limits of Sioux City, Iowa, the writer came upon a male Lazuli Bunting (*Passerina amoena*). The bird was in full breeding plumage and was feeding among the tops of the low second growth trees. It was typical bunting territory, as was evidenced by the presence of several Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*), which are summer residents in this particular spot. The bunting was carefully studied with 10x glasses and the bright blue, rich buff, and white colorings were seen in the best of light. The writer feels sure of his identification, having previously observed the bird and heard its fine song in the Killdeer Mountain region of North Dakota, where it is a summer resident.—WILLIAM YOUNG WORTH, *Sioux City, Iowa*.

Black Snakes as Bird Killers.—While in company with Messrs. Arthur H. Howell and W. H. Ball, I had the unique experience of seeing a common Black Snake in the very act of killing a young Florida Blue Jay.

Professor Howell wished to see a Bald Eagle's nest along the road, and, having stopped the car about five minutes, I heard strange calls by some bird, as if in distress, while the White-eyed Towhees were scolding as if excited about something unusual. I ran over to the spot, which was not more than 100 feet from our car, and came upon a Black Snake wound around the body and neck of a fledgling Florida Blue Jay, which was crying loudly. The snake did not appear to mind me in the least, but was striking viciously, with rapid strokes, raining blows on the head, wings and body of the fledgling.

Wishing the others to witness this atrocity, I called for them to hurry over. They were just in time to see what was taking place, when the reptile sensed danger of interference and glided quickly out of sight. Picking up the bird, we found its head bloody and also a wound upon its wing, and the head was soaked with the saliva, appearing as if the reptile had actually attempted to swallow its prey alive. The bird did not seem to be exhausted, and was very much alive, thanks to our opportune arrival.

The parents did not appear, nor were they heard. Possibly they were off feeding. Perhaps our car frightened them, as these jays in the woods are quite shy, far different from the city birds.—DONALD J. NICHOLSON, *Orlando, Fla.*

Nesting of the Purple Finch in Arkansas.—The various papers in the June, 1929, issue of the WILSON BULLETIN, on the erratic nesting habits of the Pine